REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claims 2, 7, 10, and 17 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, 8, and 16 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent.

In the Office Action of April 1, 2008, claim 17 was objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 1-8, 10, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0113879 to Battle et al. ("Battle") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0008622 to Weston et al. ("Weston"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 was objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Regarding this objection, the Office Action indicates that all of the limitations recited in claim 17 are already present in claim 6, from which claim 17 depends. Consequently, claim 17 fails to further limit the invention.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 17, thereby rendering this particular ground of rejection moot.

Claims 1-8, 10, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Battle in view of Weston. Regarding this rejection, the Office Action indicates that Battle discloses the use of a camera system having a plurality of portable devices and a fixed camera. The Office Action indicates that each of the portable devices includes a receiver unit to receive image data photographed by the fixed camera, a writer unit to write the received image data in a memory medium, a memory unit to store an ID for identification of each portable device, and a transmitter unit to transmit the ID to the fixed camera, as well as a transmit turn-off

unit to stop the transmitter from transmitting the ID to the fixed camera in response to a user operation. The Office Action further indicates that the fixed camera includes a receiver unit to receive the ID from the portable devices, an image pick-up unit to start image pick-up operation when receiving the ID, and a transmitter to transmit the photographed image data to each portable device. The Office Action admits that Battle fails to explicitly disclose the transmitter unit automatically transmitting the ID to the fixed camera without user input, at intervals of constant time, and that the transmit turn-off unit stops automatic transmission of the ID. Weston is relied upon for disclosing these particular features.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claims 2 and 7, as well as additional features that do not appear to be shown or suggested by the art of record. As amended, independent claim 1 defines a camera system that includes a plurality of portable devices, a fixed camera, and a gate. According to independent claim 1:

> a receiver unit to receive image data photographed by the fixed camera;
>
> a writer unit to write the received image data in a memory medium;
>
> a memory unit to store an ID for identification of each of the portable devices;
>
> a transmitter unit to automatically transmit the ID to the fixed camera without user input, at intervals of constant time; and
>
> a transmit turn-off unit to stop the transmitter unit from automatically transmitting the ID to the fixed camera without user input, in response to a user operation;
>
> the fixed camera comprising:
>
> a receiver unit to receive the ID from the portable devices;
>
> an image pick-up unit to start image pick-up operation when receiving the ID;

a transmitter unit to transmit the photographed image data to each of the portable devices; and

the gate comprising a first unit for registering the ID when the portable device is lent and a second unit for returning the ID when the portable device is returned,

wherein a server is provided, the transmitter unit of the fixed camera transmits the photographed image data and the ID to the server, and the server receives the image data and the ID from the fixed camera and stores the data and ID as associated with each other,

wherein the fixed camera includes a memory unit to store the image data therein and, before transmitting the image data to the server, stores the image data in the memory unit and, after receiving a transmission permission from the server, transmits the image data to the server, and wherein the server issues the transmission permission to the fixed camera according to predetermined conditions, and

wherein if the server does not issue the transmission permission to the camera, a scheduling management is performed for transferring the data from the camera after a predetermined time period elapses.

Each portable device of the camera system includes a receiver unit to receive image data that is photographed by the fixed camera, a writer unit to write the received image data in a memory medium, a memory unit to store an ID for identification for each of the portable devices, and a transmitter unit to automatically transmit the ID to the fixed camera without user input and at constant time intervals. Each of the portable devices also includes a transmit turn-off unit that stops the transmitter from automatically transmitting the ID of the fixed camera without user input, and in response to a user operation.

Each fixed camera of the camera system includes a receiver unit that receives the ID from the portable devices, an image pick-up unit to start image pick-up operations when receiving the ID, and a transmitter unit to transmit the photographed image data to each of the portable devices. The gate includes a first unit for

registering the ID when the portable device is lent and a second unit for returning the ID when the portable device is returned.

According to independent claim 1, the camera system includes a server for receiving photographed image data and ID from the transmitter unit of the fixed camera, associating them with each other, and storing them. The fixed camera also includes a memory unit to store the image data before it is transmitted to the server. The server issues a transmission permission to the fixed camera based on predetermined conditions, and the fixed camera transmits the image data to the server once the transmission permission has been received. Furthermore, according to independent claim 1, if the server does not issue the transmission permission to the camera, a scheduling management is performed to transfer the data to the camera after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

According to such an arrangement, it is possible to reduce the size of the memory unit used to store the image data in the fixed camera and better manage traffic on the network. Furthermore, by registering each ID, it is possible to reduce the number of bits allocated for storing different ID numbers, thereby reducing the amount of data being transmitted across the network.

The Office Action had indicated that the combination of Battle and Weston disclosed all the features recited in independent claim 1. As amended, however, the newly incorporated features of independent claim 1 do not appear to be disclosed or suggested by these references. In particular, these references do not appear to provide any disclosure or suggestion for features recited in independent claim 1, such as:

the gate comprising a first unit for registering the ID when the portable device is lent and a second unit for returning the ID when the portable device is returned,

wherein a server is provided, the transmitter unit of the fixed camera transmits the photographed image data and the ID to the server, and the server receives the image data and the ID from the fixed camera and stores the data and ID as associated with each other,

wherein the fixed camera includes a memory unit to store the image data therein and, before transmitting the image data to the server, stores the image data in the memory unit and, after receiving a transmission permission from the server, transmits the image data to the server, and wherein the server issues the transmission permission to the fixed camera according to predetermined conditions, and

wherein if the server does not issue the transmission permission to the camera, a scheduling management is performed for transferring the data from the camera after a predetermined time period elapses.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 3-5 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, and are therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1. In addition, these claims each introduce novel elements that independently render them patentable over the art of record.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 6 to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 7, as well as additional features that are not shown or suggested by the art of record.

As amended, independent claim 6 defines a camera system that includes a plurality of portable devices, a server, a fixed camera, and a gate. According to independent claim 6:

each of the portable devices comprising:

a memory unit to store an ID for identification of each of the portable devices;

a transmitter unit to automatically transmit the ID to the fixed camera without user input, at intervals of constant time; and

a transmit turn-off unit to stop the transmitter unit from automatically transmitting the ID to the fixed camera without user input, in response to a user operation;

the fixed camera comprising:

a receiver unit to receive the ID from the portable devices;

an image pick-up unit to start its image pick-up operation when receiving the ID; and

a transmitter unit to transmit the ID and the photographed image data to the server;

the server comprising:

a receiver unit to receive the ID and the image data from the fixed camera;

a memory unit to store information indicative of the ID and a transmission destination of the image data corresponding to the ID; and

a transmitter unit to transmit the received image data to the transmission destination; and

the gate comprising a first unit for registering the ID when the portable device is lent and a second unit for returning the ID when the portable device is returned,

wherein the fixed camera includes a memory unit to store the image data therein and, before transmitting the image data to the server, stores the image data in the memory unit and, after receiving a transmission permission from the server, transmits the image data to the server, and wherein the server issues the transmission permission to the fixed camera according to predetermined conditions, and

wherein if the server does not issue the transmission permission to the camera, a scheduling management is performed for transferring the data from the camera after a predetermined time period elapses.

Independent claim 6 now recites various features that are similar to those recited in independent claim 1. In particular, the camera system includes a gate

having a first unit for registering the ID when the portable device is lent, and a second unit for returning the ID when the portable device is returned. Furthermore, if the server does not issue the transmission permission to the camera, then a scheduling management is performed to transfer the data from the camera after a predetermined time period has elapsed. As previously discussed with respect to independent claim 1, these particular features are not shown or suggested by the art of record.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 6 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 16 depends from independent claim 6, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 6. In addition, this claim introduces novel elements that independently render it patentable over the art of record.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.42938X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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